



Pre-Gathering Bible Study

"For you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28b

Hello and Welcome!

The members of this year's Middle School Youth Gathering Committee are so excited that you will be attending this year. We pray that you will find it a Christ-filled, memorable experience. (Oh yeah, and it's going to be a lot of fun too!)

To help you prepare for this year's Gathering, we've prepared this short, interactive Bible study for your group. It's based on our theme:

STITCHED!

"For you are all one in Christ Jesus!"

Let's begin by expanding on our verse a bit:

"So, in Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through Faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26-28

There's a keyword that runs throughout these three verses. What is it?

(All)

The word, all is an inclusive word. I took a moment and looked up the word, ALL, and here's what I found:

"Whole, entire, total, all mean including everything or everyone without exception."

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/all>

So, let's look at each of the three uses of the word, ALL, in our verses individually.

"So, in Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith."

What do you need to have to be a child of God?

(Faith in Jesus Christ)

Through your Faith in Jesus Christ, you are saved!

Christ came to earth a little over 2,000 years ago. What hope did people have before Jesus came?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5-21

(The Ten Commandments – The Law)

If you said The Ten Commandments, it's about the best answer you could give. But the commandments (which God gave to Moses to pass on to the people) didn't save anyone. The Commandments have to do with transgressions (sin), not salvation. They are rules, and yes, you should still follow them.

So, we know we are children of God through Faith.

Then, our reading takes it a step further.

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Here's a simple question. What does it mean to be clothed?

(to have clothes on, to be fully dressed)

So, what does it mean to be clothed in Christ?

(Jesus died on the cross for you and me because He did this; He covered all of our sins.)

But there's more:

Paul says in the book of Colossians:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:12-14

What do you think the above verse means?

(Because of our Faith and forgiveness given to us through Jesus' death on the cross, we are and should be more like Him (Christlike))

Paul's final thought in our reading:

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

What does this verse mean?

(It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from. We are all one when we have Faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. There is no difference. Skin color and gender does not make who you are. Our Faith in Jesus makes us all one.)

B.G.T.F.

**By God's Grace, we are all saved through our Faith in Jesus Christ.
Amen!**